Jan 22
1919

Hogarth.

Wednesday

Dearest,

Domestic affairs.

Anny Boyce came to see the servants yesterday, so I had her up to see me. She would like to come to you as h. parlourmaid if you can wait for her. The difficulty is that she doesn't know how long it will be. Her present people may want her to stay till the end of June. She is paid by the week, so she might go at anymoment. The people are Americans & are waiting to get a house in America. The man has gone to get one, & will be back in 6 weeks, but it's quite likely that they'll stay on anyhow till the end of June. Anny has a friend, who is cook with her, & they want to be together & she would also like to come to you. Anny said that she has several friends & could perhaps find two who would go to you until she & the cook are free. I arranged that she should try to find two, - let me know directly she is free. Meanwhile I said I would ask you whether you would wait for them. Anny B. is one of Nelly's oldest friends & seemed very nice; Nelly also knows the cook who is said to be very nice. She is married - has a child of 10, but the child is away. Anny told Nelly that she thought she would like to go to you, & would certainly take the place if you wanted her. I enlarged upon the freedom & pleasure of it. She seemed rather independent, & not much like a servant. She is 27. So would you write & say what you want. I heard from Mrs Gral, but she knows of no one.

to they may
so then

This is my first day of writing, & I'm limited to one hour, so I mustn't enlarge too much. I wish you'd write, or aged Duncan would write, & say how you are. I'm better, though my efforts gave me rather a headache again, & I had to stay in bed for two days. I'm going out today I hope – I think I'm quite recovered, though I mean to have the discretion of an elephant. Please imitate me, but I live like a sultana among pillows & fowls & you are a lean old drudge & mother of millions. I've such a mass of things to say that I don't know where to begin. First I want a sketch of Sidonia Griselda, Leslie Vashti; a line on an envelope will do. I'm better than nothing. Then I meant to write a long account of J & Q. I was immensely impressed. Moreover I have now read part of your riddle; yes I made several discoveries about you. Then I suppose you've heard all about Norton & this? I had the story from her. I never heard such a farce. Copulation every 10 days in order to free his suppressed instincts! I rather think she'll marry him in the end. She asked my advice – but nobody ever takes my advice. I told her to see no account to copulate from a sense of duty, but to advise him to invest his capital either in a new theatre or picture gallery or string quartet & his instincts would be liberated spontaneously. Norton is the pure flower of Cambridge, isn't he? But I can't go into it. And then I saw Fitzgerald, who is writing to you, so I won't spoil her story of Aunt Anny & Cordelia & Ivy Tennyson (who was hilarious). Aunt Anny, on hearing that your daughter was beautiful, wrote to Ivy in an ecstasy saying that the lovely little girl had brought you & Clive together, & all the Fishers now know for a fact that this undoubtedly the child of Clive. Though having heard of your admirers they had once suspected – However, F's account of Cordelia was so repulsive & the Fisher atmosphere is so infinitely penetrating & degrading that I had to tell her to stop. Aren't I a good age to get gossip even when I can't go to London? And then you tell me that I'm only 3rd on the list!

VB.

NYPL

HAMILL 2/22/69

Will be able to go to London next week I expect. In haste V.

24 Jan 1919

Hogarth

1919

Friday

Dearest

I am appalled at your news. I suppose it means that you have to be nursemaid & get no food or looking after from that wretched couple E. J. I have written to Budge, whose name is H. Boxall, 23 North Street, Farncombe, Surrey. Nelly thinks there's not much chance of her coming, as she's still at her works; but I've asked her to write straight to you. I'm sure I could get you temporary people in London,

Shall be able to go to London next week. I expect. In haste Yr. Vl.

24 Jan 1919

Hogarth

1919

Friday

Dearest

I am appalled at your orders. I suppose it means that you have to be nursemaid & get no food or looking after from that wretched couple E. J. I have written to Budge, whose name is H. Boxall, 23 North Street, Farncombe, Surrey. Nelly thinks there's not much chance of her coming, as she's still at her works; but I've asked her to write straight to you. I'm sure I could get you temporary people in London,

if there fail. Liz has written to
say that the reason why Lil
didn't go to you was merely
that she found she could make
so much more money by going
as temporary. I'm afraid you're
very worried too about the
Baby, as I know how anxious
they are when small. However,
I & L do you credit.
Suppose you've had my letter about
Annie Boyle & will let me know.
I'm confronted this morning by a
demand for a rise from N. & L: or
they'll go! I'm inclined to say
Go to the Devil — Also we're
warned by Hoper that he will
probably want Arbeham after
Sept. — So I don't know what we shall do.
Are you going to get your nurse back?
I'm really better. Do send a line & say
how you both are. & let me do
anything I can. I

HAmill 12/29/69

1916

125 January 1919

Saturday night. Hagarth.

Dearest,

To my great surprise, I have just had a visit from Budge, who started off on setting my letter in order to explain the situation. She cannot come herself, but she has two friends who want a place together, as cook & h. parlourmaid, at once & permanently, & think yours would suit them. They are 22 & 23, have been in a place together before, & according to Budge are perfectly respectable & very good workers. They have always been in the country, & like children. Budge promised to tell them definitely on Monday morning whether you would take them, so I have taken it upon myself to say that you will, & also that you will have them as soon as they wish to come. Of course I have only her word to go upon, but they have been working under her in the factory, & the says they are very good characters. She the is I were in service before the war. at a school in Jennyngdale.

going to tell them to write straight to you, so you will hear from them on Tuesday, I expect. Their names are Marks & Osgood (I think.) I told that you would want characters, & she said you could get them both from their former mistress, & from the manager at the works. She has told them all about your place, & they liked the idea of it. She had told them that you would give each £25 - & she said the thought they would be content if the cook had £25, the other £2 7, with a rise if satisfactory. She thought £35 was much too much at their age. I couldn't quite make out whether they wanted to leave at once & go to you at once, or wait a week; the factory is closing in a week or 10 days anyhow. & as they can leave with an hours notice, they might want to come on straight. However I have said it would be perfectly all right if they came at once. I hope to hear something will come of this; I think they must mean it seriously, or Budge wouldn't have come all the way up to see me about it. I hope you won't think me very precipitate in engaging them, but if I didn't say something definite, I think they might slip away.

Yr B.

NYPL

HAMILL 12/29/69